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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln No.: 10/696,284

) **Confirmation No. 6489**

Filed: October 29, 2003

) **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Applicants: Akashe et al.

) I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper  
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Art Unit: 1761

) **APR 07 2005**

) Date

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Attorney for Applicant(s)

Examiner: Not Assigned

Attorney Docket No.: 1410/77017

Customer No.: 22242

Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with MPEP § 601 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants and the undersigned attorney bring the following information with respect to the above-identified application to the attention of the Examiner.

The cited documents are listed on Form PTO/SB/08 which accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2), enclosed is a copy of each foreign patent document and non-patent literature document listed. An English language abstract obtained from database providers is included herewith for each of the cited foreign patent documents.

Application No. 10/696,284  
Attorney Docket No. 1410/77017

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required with respect to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery



James P. Krueger

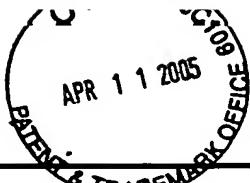
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PTO/SB/08a Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO		Application Number	10/696,284		
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Filing Date	October 29, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Akashe et al.		
		Art Unit	1761		
		Examiner Name	Not Assigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket	77017

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
		WO 97/43906	11/27/1997	Hansen		
		EP 1210879 A	06/05/2002	Akashe et al.		
		JP 8066161 A	03/12/1996	Atsushi		
		WO 00/16642 A	03/30/2000	Migliavacca		

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.